

PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, SHOTTON HALL, PETERLEE

ON MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2007

PRESENT: COUN T JONES (CHAIR)

Mesdames: L Wood, J I Measor, J Scott

Messrs: J Alvey, H Bennett MBE, W M Jeffrey, J Hardy, C J Metcalfe, C Robbins, R Huitson, E W Hall, C Austin, D Langan & D Milsom

MEMBERS WERE REMINDED OF THE NEED TO DISCLOSE ANY INTEREST PREJUDICIAL OR PERSONAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT.

PRIOR TO THE MEETING, A 15 MINUTE “OPEN SESSION” WAS HELD TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL.

170. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were given on behalf of Councillors M Milsom, G Cowie, M A Cartwright & R Jones.

171. POLICE UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed PCs Steve Rowe and Chris Fixter to the meeting. The representatives gave Members an update on the crime figures in the Town since the last meeting and highlighted cases of “sneak ins” and asked everyone to be extra vigilant over the festive period.

The Town Clerk requested extra patrols for the Dene Parks North area where the problems with youths was an issue. Members brought up the following items for attention. The Leader had seen wheelie bins being mis used and vandalised and had contacted the Police on 999. He was told to contact the local station. He was extremely dissatisfied with this response and asked that the Town Council send a letter be sent to the Chief Constable at the problems with communications. A Local Member asked for a list of the PCSO's and Beat Officers for the Passfield Ward, the Police assured that this could be done. An issue was raised with problems at the junction from the A19 at Castle Eden/Wingate and the practice of motorists making u turns and right hand turns. The Police suggested that the Council should contact the Clerk of Castle Eden Parish Council to obtain a progress report with this issue.

RESOLVED that the information given be noted and the actions as detailed above be taken.

172. NEW FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS & BOOKINGS SOFTWARE

The Town Clerk advised on progress with the new accounts and bookings software packages being introduced into the Town Council. He gave a summary of the type of financial reports that could be produced by the accounts system and he suggested that the Members of the Finance Sub Committee should undertake a training session to familiarise them with it. This was agreed as an excellent suggestion and it was asked that this be incorporated into a meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

RESOLVED that this course of action be agreed.

173. THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed.

174. THE MINUTES OF THE MAYORS COMMITTEE OF THE 15TH OCTOBER, 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to Member, were agreed.

175. THE REPORT OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 23RD OCTOBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were agreed, subject to it being included in the minutes that the issue of Sky TV was discussed and what screens were available in the facility to watch this on. It was also asked that a meeting of the newly established Peterlee Football Club Liaison Group be convened as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

176. THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF THE 5TH NOVEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

Matters Arising

- (i) Minute Number 90 – Peterlee Regeneration, Draft Development Brief, the Town Clerk advised that this had not been received and that he would submit it to a future meeting when received.

RESOLVED that this course of action be agreed.

- (ii) Minute Number 91 – Sun FM Plus Programme

RESOLVED this advertising not be taken up at this current time.

177. THE REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE 5TH NOVEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

178. THE REPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE OF THE 5TH NOVEMBER 2007, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

It was noted that at the meeting a Member had expressed his concern at the increase in the absence figures.

179. THE REPORT OF THE CLERK'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

180. THE REPORT OF THE PARKS & CEMETERY COMMITTEE OF THE 12TH NOVEMBER 2007 a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was agreed.

181. STOCKTAKE SUMMARY SHEETS, SHOTTON HALL BANQUETING SUITES & PETERLEE FOOTBALL CLUB – PERIOD UP TO 7TH NOVEMBER 2007

Consideration was given to the Stocktaker's Reports for the period up to 7th November, 2007.

RESOLVED that these Stocktaker's Reports be received.

182. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Details of the planning applications received were circulated to Members for their consideration.

RESOLVED that no comments or objections be made to any of the applications received.

183. TO CONFIRM THE DATES FOR THE JANUARY 2008 MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the meetings in January be held on the 7th, 14th and 21st January 2008.

184. DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL – CONSULTATION ON 2008/09 BUDGET PROPOSALS

A copy of correspondence received from Durham County Council outlining details of their budget for 2008/09 was considered.

RESOLVED that the letter be received and the implications

of any jointly funded schemes ie the Highways worker be taken into consideration when considering the Estimates of Expenditure for 2007/2008.

185. COUNTY DURHAM ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS
– MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE

Members were circulated with a copy of correspondence of discussions held recently regarding the possible changes arising from the introduction of a new Unitary Authority.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

186. DISTRICT OF EASINGTON – TOWN TWINNING WITH
BAESWEILLER – DATES OF VISIT

Members were circulated with details of the visits to be made to Easington's twin town of Baesweiller.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

187. DISTRICT AUDIT'S ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT
2006/07

Consideration was given to the report received from District Auditor on the Town Council's Annual Governance, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

RESOLVED that the report be received and the contents noted.

188. CONFERENCES

It was requested that an item be included for a future meeting on the way conferences were organized in terms of accommodation allowances, modes of travel etc.

RESOLVED that this matter be placed on the agenda of a future meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

189. INSURANCE COVER

Members asked for clarification on insurance cover whilst on Council business.

RESOLVED that this matter be clarified for Members.

190. HEALTH & SAFETY MEETINGS

Members asked for a Health & Safety Meeting to be convened as soon as possible.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

191. SHOTTON HALL SUB COMMITTEE

Members asked that a Shotton Hall Sub Committee be convened as soon as possible,

RESOLVED that this course of action, be followed.

192. INVITATIONS TO THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD- ANNUAL LUNCHEON

A Local Member asked who had attended the Annual Luncheon by invitation from the Showmen's Guild on behalf of the Town Council. It was confirmed that only the Mayor had attended on the Town Council's behalf. He felt that all invitations received whether they were accepted or not should be reported to Committee.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

193. LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader gave his report which included the following matters:-

(i) Minute Number 79 – DEFRA Ways to Tackle Climate Change, the Leader stressed the need to consider what the Council can do to help combat climate change. He made reference to a booklet “Today’s Challenge – Tomorrow’s Climate” and he asked if copies of this could be provided for all Members and for them to consider ways in which the Council could take this further.

RESOLVED that this course of action be followed.

(ii) Talking Security Cameras – details were given on the success of this type of security measure on construction sites and it was suggested that this be considered for areas such as Dene Parks and Eden Lane.

RESOLVED that the suggestion of talking security cameras be investigated further.

194. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC

IN VIEW OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, THE COMMITTEE PASSED THE FORMAL RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS & PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING, PURSUANT TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSIONS TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1961 & THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985.

195. MR S BURROUGHS – GRIEVANCE UPDATE

The Clerk gave members a verbal update on this matter. A Special Meeting of the Establishment Committee was to be convened on Wednesday 28th November 2007 to consider Mr Burrough’s appeal against the decision made by the Panel who had heard his grievance.

RESOLVED that the information given, be noted.

196. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS – ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

The Town Clerk advised that he had been elected National President of the Society of Local Council Clerks.

RESOLVED that the Town Council's congratulations be recorded to the Clerk on such an achievement.